

# Montana High School Lacrosse Association

## MHSLA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

### PROPOSED MEETING MINUTES

Date: November 2, 2019

Time: 11:00 AM

Location: Best Western Conference Center, Butte, Montana

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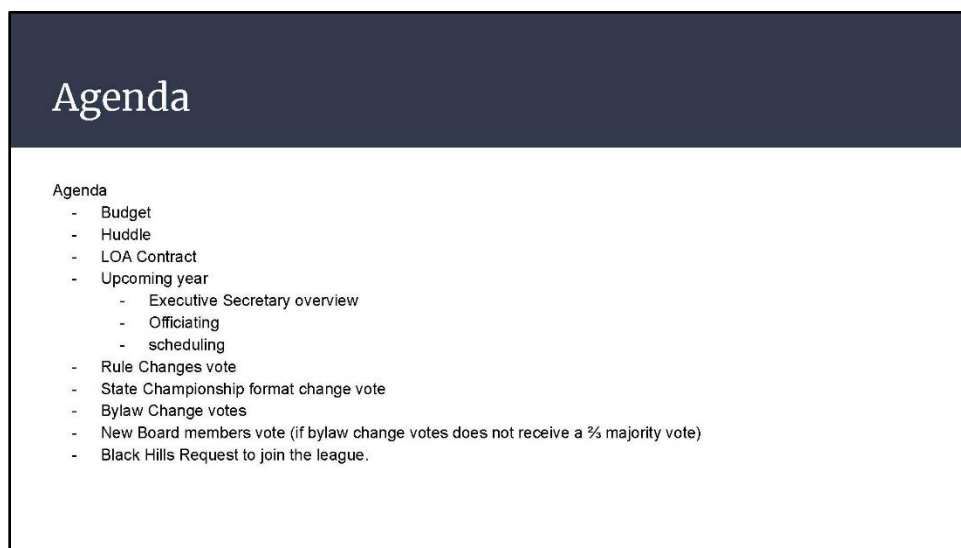
#### Meeting Attendees and Program Representation:

1. Missoula Big Sky (boys)
  - Rachel Becker, Big Sky – email: beckerrm04@gmail.com
  - Andrea Knight, Big Sky boys – email: aksknight@outlook.com
2. Bearcats Billings (boys)
  - Tina Drain, Billings Bearcats Lacrosse – email: kt drain@gmail.com
  - Raelee Swanson, Billing Bearcats – email: raelee.swanson@msn.com
3. Bandits Billings (boys)
  - Brynn Schwartz, Billings Bandits – email: yvlacrosse@gmail.com
  - Ryan Wilson, Billings Bandits – email: yvlacrosse@gmail.com
4. Bozeman (boys and girls):
  - Joel Baller, Bozeman high school – email: jballer1977@gmail.com
  - Hannah Jaicks, Bozeman high school girls – email: hjaicks1@gmail.com
  - Mindy Espinosa, Bozeman high school – email: melmin@rocketmail.com
5. Butte Blizzard (boys)
  - Hunter Carroll, Butte Blizzard – email: buttelax@gmail.com
  - Dan Carroll, Butte Blizzard – email: buttelax@gmail.com
6. Glacier (boys and girls)
  - Chris Fraser, Glacier – email: fraser@kw.com
7. Great Falls Fury (boys)
  - Julie Flesch, Great Falls Fury – email: ronoc1217@hotmail.com
  - Mike Flaherty, Great Falls Fury – email: mike@gfpaper.com
8. Helena (boys and girls)
  - John Noble, Last Chance Lacrosse Club – email: johnn@chery-noble.com
9. Hellgate Lacrosse (boys and girls)
  - Steve Amish, Hellgate – email: Stephen.amish@mso.umt.edu
  - Sally Lane, Hellgate – email: sallylane\_msla@yahoo.com
10. Missoula Sentinel (boys and girls)
  - Sheryll Stewart, Spartan Lacrosse – email: spartanlacrosse3@gmail.com
11. Whitefish (boys)
  - Matt Lawrance, Whitefish Lacrosse Club – email: mattmontanacreative@gmail.com
12. Rimrock Lacrosse (girls)
  - Sissel Goldberg, Rimrock Lacrosse – email: rimrocklacrosse@gmail.com
  - Kris Fears, Rimrock Lacrosse – email: rimrocklacrosse@gmail.com
13. Montana High School Lacrosse Association (MHSLA)
  - Blake Wahrlich, MHSLA President – email: mhslapresident@gmail.com
  - Matt Rizzolo, MHSLA Vice President – email: mhsalvp@gmail.com
  - Sarah Flynn, MHSLA Secretary – email: mhslasecretary@gmail.com
14. Other
  - Chris Kelley, Treasure State Lacrosse – email: treasurestatelacrosse@gmail.com

Not present: Jackson Hole and Cody

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## Introductions and Agenda

A presentation slide titled "Agenda" with a dark blue header. The slide lists the following items:

- Agenda
  - Budget
  - Huddle
  - LOA Contract
  - Upcoming year
    - Executive Secretary overview
    - Officiating
    - scheduling
  - Rule Changes vote
  - State Championship format change vote
  - Bylaw Change votes
  - New Board members vote (if bylaw change votes does not receive a 2/3 majority vote)
  - Black Hills Request to join the league.

## Budget

MHSLA ended the 2019 season nearly even (see details below). Officiating was the largest budget item. MHSLA coordinated officials' fees, invoicing teams and paying the Montana Lacrosse Officials Association (MLOA). Expenses for meetings included room rentals. There were no real costs for marketing. Did not spend any budget on staff positions.

Field expenses in 2019 season consisted of 3 items:

1. Neutral site reimbursements,
2. State tournament fields, and
3. Early season turf fields (league reimbursed many of these fees due to weather conditions and the inability to play on grass.

MHSLA paid for all varsity boys/girls games to use Krossover. Many of the boys used it (over 50%) and those that used it found it beneficial. Girls minimally used Krossover; this was largely due to lack of communication and confusion, so it didn't get used to its potential.

Income included team registrations. Did not actualize on the fundraising budget item.

MHSLA spent more than was took in because there was a surplus of funds and the league agreed to spend this on Krossover and field reimbursements.

The proposed 2020 budget is similar to the 2019 budget (see image below). The current bank account balance is approximately \$12,495.

Discussion:

- Outstanding payments: Still need to issue refunds for officiating fees to Sentinel and Great Fall for games that were cancelled within the allowable timeframes.
- Blake will ask Lynette to send a more detailed summary of the budget.
- Clarification regarding women's game and field reimbursements: neutral site fields were not reimbursements for the girls due to the jamboree model and the shared cost of fields throughout the season. Will talk more about this for officiating next year.

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## Budget Estimate Summary 2019

### Summary of Profit/Loss

Total Income	\$56,130.00
Starting Revenue	\$12,274.52
Total Expenses	\$62,390.00
Net profit or Loss	-\$6,260.00
End of Season Total	\$6,014.52

<u>Expenses</u>		<u>Revenue</u>	
Description	Amount	Description	Amount
Officiating	\$41,100.00	Team Registration	\$17,230.00
General membership Meetings	\$750.00	MHSLA Fundraising	\$500.00
Marketing	\$2,200.00	Officiating Fees	\$38,400.00
Field Expenses	\$7,500.00	Misc. Revenue	\$0.00
Staff Positions	\$3,000.00	Starting Revenue	\$12,274.52
Administrative	\$2,840.00		
Krossover	\$5,000.00		
Lorem Ipsum	\$0.00		
Lorem Ipsum	\$0.00		
Lorem Ipsum	\$0.00		
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$62,390.00</b>		

## Budget Summary 2019 - Actuals

### Summary of Profit/Loss

Total Income	\$	56,351.00
Starting Revenue	\$	12,274.52
Total Expenses	\$	54,962.40
Net profit or Loss	\$	1,388.60
End of Season Total	\$	13,663.12

<u>2019 Expenses</u>		<u>Revenue</u>	
Description	Amount	Description	Amount Paid
Officiating	\$ 38,376.00	Team Registration	\$17,975.00
General membership Meetings	\$ 675.00	MHSLA Fundraising	\$0.00
Marketing	\$ 105.85	Officiating Fees	\$38,376.00
Field Expenses	\$ 5,972.00	Misc. Revenue	\$0.00
Staff Positions	\$ -	Starting Revenue	\$12,274.52
Administrative	\$ 4,504.05		
Krossover	\$ 3,240.00		
State Tournament Officials - Lodging	\$ 982.50		
Outstanding Unpaid Fees	\$ 1,107.00		
Lorem Ipsum	\$ -		
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 54,962.40</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$68,625.52</b>

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2020 Budget				
Boys Varsity	\$825.00	\$9,900.00	General membership Meetings	\$450.00
Girls Varsity	\$825.00	\$5,775.00	Marketing	\$100.00
Boys JV	\$725.00	\$3,625.00	Field Expenses	\$4,500.00
Girls JV	\$725.00	\$0.00	Staff Positions	\$5,500.00
			Administrative	\$3,189.38
			Krossover	\$2,800.00

## **Hudl (Matt)**

[Note: Krossover was recently purchased by Hudl].

There were some successes with Krossover during the 2019 season, but overall it was not successful. The approval for funding this for boys and girls was late, and later for girls due to the lateness of developing the schedule and finalizing the number of games; this information was needed to request a quote from Krossover. Implementation of Hudl for the 2020 season could be better with more lead time, but MHSLA wants to make sure all the programs want to do it this year before pursuing costs and setting up a league in Hudl.

Teams that are using Krossover/Hudl find it to be very useful for coaching consistency, training for officials, recruiting and others uses. Would like for all teams to use it so it is fair across the league. JV teams weren't covered in 2019 and they didn't have the benefit of using it with other JV teams in the league. Maybe consider this for next season. Good for chalk talk.

For the JV program, 12 games cost approximately \$500 – Last Chance Lacrosse Club. John N (Helena) has used it for 2 years for the JV team and really likes it. Need to make sure it is utilized.

### Costs:

- For each to team to buy breakdowns from Hudl on their own: \$40/game;
- League-wide system: \$40/game, includes both teams – half the cost (\$20/game per team).

Krossover/Hudl has a quick turnaround time on breaking down the games and it is getting better. For the league, they guarantee 12- to 24-hour turnaround. After games are broken down, the teams can filter for unknown plays to add in breakdown information where needed.

### Issues with Krossover in 2019:

- Quality/consistency of filming. Could use more coaching on how to do this better.
- Uploaded game film, but didn't get anything back (Butte).
- Training issues for the filming: when film was reviewed, bad comments from audience about officials/players were captured. There issues with the camera following one player and missing plays, etc.

For Year 2 implementation (2020) – MHSLA still expects a learning curve. Hudl will offer help/training over the phone.

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Estimate \$3,800 to \$4,000 to cover all varsity boys' & girls' games. To pay for JV would be approximately \$1,000 more. If JV teams would like to see other teams' films and the varsity games, MHSLA could see if they could be added to the league for this purpose without purchasing game breakdowns. If a team/program wants to buy more games (i.e. to breakdown out-of-league games) they can do it through the league.

If the league wants to commit to this, Matt offered to prepare a training manual.

Discussion:

- Without officiating fees, approximately ¼ of the budget would be spent on Hudl. Some would prefer for this cost to be put toward neutral sites and other existing costs.
- Can't really setup a league in Hudl without all teams participating; this wouldn't be fair for only those that can pay to have access to game footage.
- Is this a fee on top of registration? No, it is all wrapped in.
- The film is good for officiating. It could be used to highlight points of emphasis for officiating and keep track of training needs.
  - Side note: For 2020, develop a feedback form that will be used for coaches and officials. Last year MHSLA planned to have a form for each head coach and officials to provide an evaluation of games; however, the form wasn't developed. In 2019, complaints from the league were forwarded to the head trainer for the MLOA, film was reviewed (if available) and follow-up occurred as needed.
  - Officials need nurturing – not as much criticism – mostly from sidelines during the games.
- Could an account be made in the MHSLA Hudl league for officials? Yes, will make an officials' team within the league. Could make it so all officials have access to all film from all teams.

**VOTING:** Passed 93% in favor; 7% against – **APPROVED** (see image of poll results below)

MHSLA will do due diligence to pursue this and keep costs in line with last year.

Results for: Would you use huddle if subsidized and made mandatory that each home varsity team would be required to film and upload their game.	
Summary	
Response	Count
YES	13
NO	1
Total	14

## Montana Lacrosse Officials Association (MLOA) Contract

The MLOA board members have changed. They realize that they haven't been able to account for all their fees. They said they lost money on high school games, but didn't know how; and said they lost more money on youth than high school in 2019.

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## LOA Contract

### Major changes

- Invoicing done by league Treasurer
- Invoices paid directly to MLOA
- Each game will be invoiced for 3 officials for boys and 2 for girls.
- Programs will pay per team 1 time administrative fees.
- MLOA at end of season will settle up at State GM meeting. If you had 4 games without 3 officials you would receive a refund for your portion.
- 2 year contract

### Fees and Rates

- |                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| - Assignor fee         | \$100                  |
| - Varsity Booking Fee  | \$100                  |
| - JV Booking Fee       | \$100                  |
| - Varsity Games        | \$105 (3 off per game) |
| - JV Games             | \$70 (2 off per game)  |
| - Travel Mns per game  | \$15                   |
| - Travel Wmns Per game | \$20                   |

### Proposed costs and changes for 2020:

- Assignor and booking fees would be due at the February 2020 General Membership meeting. Assume approximately 13 games per season, 3 officials for each boys' game and 2 officials for each girls' game (regular season).
- The MHSLA Treasurer would generate invoices on behalf of MLOA, but payment would go directly to the MLOA. At the state tournament, the MLOA would adjust for actual officiating costs (i.e. refund fees if not all games have 3 officials).
- The goal is to develop a 2-year contract. In 2020, the 2022 contract would be developed so the league and MLOA are ahead of the game.

### Discussion and Additional Notes:

- It is easier for MHSLA to prepare invoices at this point with the template that was developed in 2019, so MHSLA proposed to do this for now.
- The past contract was \$123/game that covered all travel and per diem (not including state).
- The cost for 2020 is proposed to be \$105/team/game, plus \$15 for travel per diem; resulting in a cost of \$120 per team/game.
- The MLOA requests 50% up front, 50% later on (due a week or two earlier than last year).
- The women's game has higher costs for travel because they need to pull more out of state officials.
- Estimate that each team will save approximately \$386 during 2020 versus 2019 with the new contract.

Based on an informal poll, approximately 52% support moving forward with this new contract structure. However, it can't be approved now, because the contract isn't yet finalized with the MLOA.

### Upcoming year (2020)– Executive Secretary overview

An executive secretary position was written into MHSLA bylaws, but the position hasn't been filled. It is a paid, non-board position. Formerly, in the Montana Lacrosse Association (MLA), this was a commissioner position. Previous input was that communication within the MHSLA to program members could be better and filling the executive secretary position might help.

### Discussion:

- How will this ensure that communication is done? Requiring this by volunteers is hard. The paid executive secretary would be responsible for enforcing deadlines, communication, scheduling,

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administrative coordination, etc. They would handle both the boys' and girls' league. The boys' and girls' commissioner model didn't work for the 2019 season.

- This paid position would be accountable to the board, and the league as a whole. They would be the point person for all questions. The more work they do, the more it costs the league.
- Currently, the 2020 budget includes \$5,500 for this position.
- The job announcement was sent out to all programs in the league for applications. One application was received from Blake Wahrlich.
- The MLA has funded a similar position in the past.
- Could a board member from one of the programs be an executive secretary for the league? Yes, but no a current MHSLA board member as the bylaws state that all MHSLA board members are not paid.

**ACTION:** The MHSLA board will vote on this position during their next monthly meeting.

## Executive Secretary

The Executive Secretary is a paid position that will administer the day to day operations of the league and be responsible to the Board and Ultimately the General Membership.

They will be hired as an outside contractor and paid based on time worked and reported. They will handle all communication not board related though they will also duplicate some messages.

They will be responsible for coordinating all game and schedule requests as well as enforcing rules and timelines.

- Hourly pay as an outside contractor
- Will work on creating schedule
- Will work with program reps on ensuring deadlines are met.

### **[BREAK]**

#### **Upcoming year (2020) – Officiating**

Girls had 19 officials during the 2019 season; 1 official worked 25 games; the number of games worked for the rest of the officials was variable. Boys had 40 officials; 1 official worked 49 games. One game (JV boys) was cancelled due to no officials showing up. Some officials are doing multiple games in one day. Officiating too many games in a day or a short period of time has the potential to burn out the officials and they lose their effectiveness.

The girls' schedule is formatted the way it is due to the low number of officials for the girls' game. There needs to be more women's officials to move away from the model of having high school girls scheduled with youth. More officials are needed to reduce per diem rates; travel is a large part of costs. Between 10 to 14 new officials should be the goal for the 2020 season with each of these officials working at least 4 games per season. This is approximately one new official for each team in a program.

An officials training will happen at the Montana Lacrosse convention this winter. There are five certified officials' trainers located in Billings, Bozeman, the northwest region. and Missoula. A good starting place for new officials to work is JV high school. Some officials do not want to officiate youth. Youth is addressing these issues – requiring sideline officials now, changes in coaching.

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The MLOA requests that scheduling for high school include more non-Saturday games. Also requests that MLOA talk with MLA about Saturday/Sunday schedule too, to spread this out. Sunday games may be included for the 2020 season. In 2019, Sundays were left open for make up games. Most programs don't want to play Sundays.

Programs should encourage coaches and parents to become officials. They can pickup games to officiate between coaching or watching games. Some coaches that officiate find it helpful. For coaches, potential conflicts should be considered and only officiating for the opposite conferences may be considered or officiating different age groups. The MLOA assignor should help avoid these conflicts. Home games could be scheduled with the youth schedule and encourage high school players to get certified so they can help officiate youth games. Would like more officials so more games can have 3 officials assigned.

Would like mechanism for feedback to MLOA. Potential ways to engage more officials include encouraging officials to come to high school practices so they get more practice making calls during drills. Just making contact with officials – face time to get to know them is important for building relationships.

The MLOA is receiving \$2,000 from MHSLA to support training costs.

Question: Could an on-site game setup for girls officiating be done differently? It was really hard to fit this in between games for high school girls players that tried to get certified. In February, see if a game could be scheduled and pull some of the players out to officiate. **Blake will talk with Lyn Porterfield, the US Lacrosse Regional Manager, to see if there are other ways to do this.**

## Officiating

Girls had a total of 19 officials	On boys side
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- One official did 25 games</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- 9 officials did 30+ games</li><li>- 9 officials did 20-29 games</li><li>- 12 officials did 10-19 games</li></ul>
Boys had 40 officials	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- One official did 49 games</li></ul>	
These are both HS and Youth	We have a few doing the work of many. Sounds familiar board members?

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## Officiating Continued

Last year 1 game had to be canceled due to lack of officials on the boys side.

Girls side follows jamboree model due to lack of officials

Not enough new officials being recruited

MLOA responsible for collecting fees

We need to recruit and train 10-14 new officials who can work 3-4 games a season

The goal should be for each program to recruit 1 new official. If your program has boys and girls teams then you should recruit 1 for each game.

MLOA has asked that we work on spreading out game to accommodate more non-saturday games.

Fees will not go up beyond \$123 per game but working on new contract

If we want to reduce fees we need more officials

### Upcoming year (2020) – Scheduling

Included in discussion above.

### Proposed Rule Changes

Two programs submitted rule changes: one was related to JV language in the bylaws and another was for state championship.

#### **JV Rule Change:**

## Rule Change

Player Numbers – Rule Change #1:

1. Existing Rule:
  - a. 7.4.3 The Boundary Documents will be created by the Board using existing registration numbers, school proximity, and school enrollment numbers to create:
    - i. A viable environment to grow and create new, school-specific programs.
2. Proposed Rule:
  - a. 7.4.3.A Revised. Player pools large enough to maintain JV programs designed to attract and develop new athletes to the sport of lacrosse.

- Each program has 1 vote.
- Each program will fill out slip of paper
- Will be counted by board president and either board Secretary or Vice President to confirm results

Rather than focusing on growth; the rule change focuses on development. Most sports are pulling new athletes in, and development happens in a JV environment. This rule doesn't change the current boundary document for the league.

New programs have 2 years before any of the player number caps apply. After 3 years, the numbers could apply, but programs could apply for a waiver from this rule if they feel that splitting would be detrimental for having a JV program and supporting development. The petition process was already there, and it still applies.

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When the rule book was setup, it was based on Washington state which was a growth model. This was focused on each high school having a team and rapid growth of teams. The MHSLA has heard from programs that they would like to slow the split process to support more development.

The cap on the number of games JV players playing at varsity was removed – to play at state all players on the field needed to have played 2 (or 3) varsity games, and maximum number of 26 player per varsity team at state. The current rules don't allow seniors to play at JV level.

**ACTION:** The rule book on the MHSLA website needs to be updated to reflect the change in the number of games JV players may play at varsity during the season.

Helena submitted a proposed rule change, but it was not received. Their proposed rule change related to removing the requirement to form new governing board for new programs when varsity teams split. This rule change could be re-submitted for a future MHSLA General Membership meeting. There is a 1 year waiver for forming a new board when team split.

Discussion noted that the quality of the lacrosse is important, and there is a fine balance between development and growth. Opening registration early is a good way to get a feel for numbers.

Vote: 90% for; 10% against. **APPROVED**

Results for: Rule Change	
Summary	
Response	Count
Vote YES	9
Total	9

Side note: Great Falls noted that they are struggling to support 2 boards for high school and youth. They are struggling with both costs and the number of volunteers. Can petition to the board to request a waiver for splitting their youth and high school programs into two boards. A program could also propose a bylaw change related to this topic for a future meeting.

## **State Championship Format Change:**

The proposal saves a travel day for some teams and spreads out officiating needs. The proposal would spread the championship tournament out over two weekends – the number of games would change based on the number of teams.

The General Membership meeting may still happen at state and could require extra travel for programs to attend the meeting if they are eliminated from the state-wide championship. However, the general membership meeting could be scheduled in a central location at a different date around the championship season.

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## State Championship

### State Championship weekend

- Starting in 2021 the state championship weekend will be split over 2 weekends. The first weekend would be Conference Championships played within their region (East and West) and the following weekend would be Championship weekend. The goal is to reduce travel time for teams and to allow teams who make the Championship game to prepare and allow injured players to recover.
- Women's teams would still play over 1 weekend until such time their numbers would allow for the same format.
- Option 1 for boys timing would be conference championships weekend before Memorial Day weekend and Championship weekend the weekend after Memorial Day weekend
- Option 2 would be to keep championship weekend the weekend before Memorial day weekend and just move conference championships up 1 weekend.

### Cons:

- If teams don't make it to state and one of their players receives an all state award, they would either miss receiving the award in person or they would need to travel to accept the award.
- If teams make it to the state tournament, the reduced travel benefit goes away.
- Potential loss of community without all teams being present at state.
- Championship dates later in the year, at or after Memorial Day, could conflict with graduation.

### Benefits:

- Less time/travel for official.
- Less cost and effort for the hosting program(s) and allows multiple hosts during the season.
- Better field availability and fewer fields required.
- Increased chance for better player health and provides more rest before state.

This change may be needed at some point – but is it needed now?

Weather limits the ability to start the season earlier and graduation limits extending the season later.

Is there a concern with putting youth state and high school state on the same weekend? There wouldn't be a conflict as youth state is later.

**VOTE:** regarding splitting the championship tournament over 2 weekends for 2021 season: 1 for; 10 against.  
**NOT APPROVED**

Second vote regarding the potential schedule is not needed.

**ACTION ITEM:** All Conference awards from the 2019 season need to be sent out.

For 2020, bringing back the sportsmanship award would be desired. The officials presented this award in previous years.

The State Championship for 2020 will be the weekend of May 23-24.

### **Proposed Bylaw Change**

At the spring 2019 General Membership meeting, issues with communication were discussed. Some suggested reorganizing the board so each program would have a representative on the MHSLA board. With the executive

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secretary position filled, communication should improve and each program having a member on the board may not be needed or desired.

A proposed bylaw change was sent out via email prior to the meeting. The proposal removes the regions and the regional representatives, increases the number of board members so that each program elects a representative.



**MOTION:** Mike Flaherty (Great Falls) motioned to approve the bylaw change.

Discussion:

The bylaw change includes 2 at-large positions for the MHSLA board. These two positions could allow flexibility for adding additional expertise such as an accountant, marketing personnel, a past president, or others. The revised bylaws state that the executive board would be elected from the 15 board members. There would be no less than 5 board members and no more than 18.

Cons: potential for everyone looking out for themselves, gathering a quorum for each meeting may be difficult, consensus /balanced view might be difficult; potential to run out of time on calls/meetings. Having a facilitator to establish rules and procedures for calls may help.

Pros: Continuity with the format of the youth.

Lyn Porterfield, US Lacrosse regional manager, has facilitated this type of meeting in the past and could potentially do this again.

The MHSLA board positions would require a 2 to 3 year commitment. If this is changed now, there will be a lot of new members.

The MHSLA bylaws don't require parents to be on the board and don't require that representatives be a board member for the program.

**SECOND:** Mindy Espinoza (Bozeman) seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** For 92%; Against: 8% -- **APPROVED** (see summary below).

All the programs need to assign their representatives. The representatives don't need to be a board member for the programs. The next MHSLA board meeting is scheduled for November 19, 2019. Programs need to send

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their representative's contact information to the outgoing secretary, Sarah Flynn before the call – [mhslasecretary@gmail.com](mailto:mhslasecretary@gmail.com). Secretary will mail out call in information.

<b>Results for: Do you approve the recommended bylaw changes proposed by the MHSLA board?</b>	
<b>Summary</b>	
Response	Count
YES	11
NO	1
Total	12

## New Board Members

Not needed due to approval of the bylaw change above.

## Black Hills Lacrosse Request to Join MHSLA

If Black Hills joined MHSLA, they would be in the east conference. They are requesting that 1 team, their boys varsity team, join the MHSLA league. Their league dissolved, prompting this request.

Would Montana teams be required to travel to South Dakota? Black Hills, in their application, said they are willing to travel to Montana for all games. Billings teams may go there, but they are likely the only team due to travel time and distance. It may be possible to schedule games in closer locations (i.e. Sheridan or similar - Sheridan has a good turf field and they are accommodating). For considering this request, estimate that Black Hills would travel to Montana for 90% of the games and 10% of games would be Montana teams traveling to South Dakota. If teams travel to South Dakota, they may be able to pick up other games on the way with other out of league teams.

Youth accepted an application for the Rapids City team to play in Montana and they will only travel to Montana, with no requirement for Montana teams to travel to them.

Any program in Montana can already schedule games with Black Hills without the requirement of them joining the league. Black Hills would also like the opportunity to participate in a championship tournament.

Could they be a provisional member for their first year? Yes. Another option would be to just schedule games with them.

Fostering growth of these programs is helping the programs grow. Eventually Montana high school lacrosse will be just Montana, but there are still opportunities to support growth in our surrounding states until they have developed leagues.

If they join the MHSLA, does this discourage development of a league in their state?

**MOTION:** Tina Drain (Billings) motioned for Black Hills to join the MHSLA. **SECOND:** Mike Flaherty (Great Falls).

If approved, all east conference teams would be required to play Black Hills during the regular season.

**VOTE:** For: 100%; against: 0%. **APPROVED** (11 yes, 3 abstain – see detail below).

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Blake will let Black Hills know they have been accepted into the MHSLA and that they will need to provide a representative for the MHSLA board.

Results for: Do you vote to approve Black Hills request to join the league	
Summary	
Response	Count
YES	11
Total	11

## **Scheduling for 2020**

To develop the game schedule for 2020, the following steps are recommended based on previous year's process:

- Complete the blackout dates form for the 2020 season (sent via Google Docs). Complete this by the next board meeting (11/19/2019). This allows the scheduling committee to start drafting the boys game schedule.
- Draft schedule for boys completed in December 2019 and shared with the board.
- Before February 2020, programs work on potential revisions to address any conflicts in schedules.
- At the February 2020 General Membership meeting, head coaches, plus 1 more member attend the meeting and revise and finalize the schedule for boys. Head coaches are required to attend this meeting when officials' representatives also attend and provide updates on new rules.
- The girls' schedule will be developed at the February general membership meeting. For 2020, the youth girls' scheduler is invited to help with the high school girls schedule so it is coordinated with the youth dates to facilitate officials' availability.
- After the February 2020 General Membership meeting, the final schedule is sent to officials

## NOTES:

- Please note if you are willing to travel to Black Hills on the 2020 black out form.
- Please don't block out all Sundays.
- Girls need to have blackouts done to support the scheduling at the meeting.
- During the next MHSLA board call (11.19.2019) – the board will set the date for the February General Membership meeting.

The current youth game schedules, weekends only, are the following:

- Boys:
  - April 11 – Helena
  - April 25 – Missoula
  - May 2 – Kalispell
  - May 9 – Great Falls
- Girls:
  - April 9-12 – Billings
  - April 16-19 – Kalispell
  - April 25 – Missoula
  - May 2 – Helena
  - May 9 – Jackson Hole

# Montana High School Lacrosse Association

## Update from Treasure State Lacrosse

Treasure State Lacrosse is trying to support all lacrosse teams in Montana. Currently, they have fall and winter select teams running. They have space for boys and girls to join; boys only for Yakima; boys and girls for Seattle and San Francisco.

Treasure State Lacrosse is hosting the first Montana Lacrosse Convention in Bozeman December 13 to 15, 2019. Additional details will be provided by Treasure State Lacrosse. At the convention, they will have Level 1 certification training available for coaches. If desired, they can also have Level 2 coaches training.

February 29 to March 1, 2020 is the Gallatin Valley Indoor Shootout that includes high school boys, high school girls, and men's open division in Bozeman. The indoor facility in Bozeman provides a larger field and more space for play.

February 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020 is the youth only Garden City Lacrosse shootout.

Treasure State Lacrosse is helping youth development by trying to provide opportunities that limit travel requirements to play and reduce barriers for youth participation. They are steering youth into existing programs following these introductions to lacrosse.

Select teams currently have has participation from all boys teams in the state. The summer Montana Premier Lacrosse League (MPLL) will be adding a women's league next summer.